JOHN E. PFEIFFER
NEW HOPE, PA.

February 13, 1960

Dear Joshua Lederberg,

Just a note to let you know that I'm still trying to make Stanford and meet you. (That means getting someone to send me on the trip !)

Also, ever since reading your "Genes and Antibodies" for the first time I've been trying to translate it into terms of human memory. Could there be a wide variety of genetically different strains of nerve cells, glial as well as neuronal, producing many species of cerebral proteins that might do for memory traces what antibodies do for antigens? A remembered event, actual or imagined, could create a new foreign compound or a number of such compounds, an antigen of a sort or a number of antigens. In short, an elective theory for instinctive behavior and an instructive theory for intelligent learned behavior—with the elective theory perhaps accounting for more than we like to believe. I'm sure you've thought along these lines and this is one thing I want to discuss with you some day.

Have finished a series of four DNA-RNA-protein synthesis articles which won't be published until spring. Will send copies for your criticism and amusement then.

Yours,

John Pfeiffer